

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 2, 5-7, and 9 are currently pending and amended. On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 5 and 6 were objected to due to various informalities. Applicants have amended the claims to address the objections. Therefore, withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

Claims 5-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 due to the claims being directed to a program. Applicants have amended the claims to address the Examiner's rejection. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 5-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for allegedly failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. In particular, the Examiner alleged that the phrases "said electronic message" and "sending the electronic message" in claims 6 and 5, respectively, are unclear, as to whether the updated electronic message or the "prior to updated electronic message" is being referenced.

Applicants submit that the claim clearly recites that the original message is updated. After the message is updated, the updated message is sent from the server. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the relevant art would readily appreciate that the above-identified phrases refer to the updated electronic message.

Applicants have amended claims 6 and 7 to address the antecedent basis issue. In light of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

On page 4 of the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 5-7, and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. US 2002/0099567 (Joao).

Joao is directed to an apparatus and method for providing shipment information. According to Joao, the apparatus and method can be attached to, integrated with, located and/or positioned on, and/or located and/or positioned in, a shipment conveyance device, a pallet, a container, a tote, and/or any shipment conveyance structure or apparatus. The apparatus includes a shipment conveyance device computer with a random access memory device and a read only memory device, each of which is connected to a Central Processing Unit (CPU). According to Joao, the shipment conveyance device computer includes a transmitter for transmitting signals and/or data and/or information from the shipment conveyance device computer to any one or more of the carrier computers, the sender computers, the receiver computers, the central processing computers, and/or any of the other shipment conveyance

device computers.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 2, 5-7, and 9 are patentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. U.S. 2002/0099567 (Joao), as Joao fails to teach each and every element of the claims.

In particular, for example, Applicants respectfully submit that Joao fails to teach, "accepting at said server an electronic message containing a personal message addressed from the sender of the article to the receiver of the article. . .," as recited in independent claim 1, for example.

In contrast to the present invention, Joao discloses producing a delivery message from shipment information. Shipment information of an article is essentially in the possession of a carrier or transporter who delivers the article. While Joao enumerates various items as examples of shipment information, none of the information provided by Joao discloses a, "personal message addressed from the sender of the article to the receiver of the article," as in the present invention.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 2, 5-7, and 9 are patentable over Joao, as the reference fails to teach the feature identified by the above quoted claim language.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

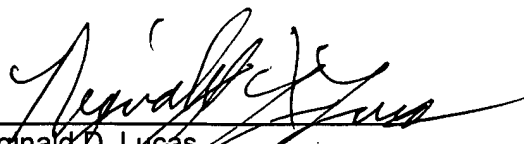
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after the response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to the matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of the Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 5/1/00

By:   
Reginald D. Lucas  
Registration No. 46,883

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Telephone: (202) 434-1500

Serial No. 09/987,892

Facsimile: (202) 434-1501